



United States Consulate General Guadalajara

U.S. Consulate to Bring Back Border Crossing Cards



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(Only available in Spanish)

GUADALAJARA – Beginning January 23, the U.S. Consulate General will begin re-issuing Border Crossing Cards (BCCs) to applicants who qualify for 10-year, B1/B2 non-immigrant visas. The BCC is a credit card-style document with new security features added. Also known as a "laser visa," the card is both a BCC and a B1/B2 visitor's visa with a ten-year validity period. The majority of temporary visitors traveling to the U.S. for business or pleasure will now receive the same wallet-sized cards currently issued by other U.S. consulates.

Travelers with current tourist visas need not reapply as a result of this change. Previously issued visas, including BBBCVs -- a paper visa foil affixed to the inside of a passport--issued in Guadalajara from 2007 through 2012, will remain valid for travel until the expiration date printed on the visa. The U.S. Consulate will continue to issue this type of visa in cases of emergency travel, and for visa classes and validity periods other than 10-year, B1/B2 visas.

New Consular Chief Kerry Brougham notes that, for most visitors, the re-introduction of BCCs should have no impact on the application process. "People may not even notice a difference until they receive their visa," says Brougham. "We're simply bringing back a tested product that has proven popular with customers in the past." Qualified applicants will receive their cards three to four weeks from the time of their application.

An added security feature of the new BCC will enable card holders to use the Ready Lanes introduced by U.S. Customs and Border Protection as a way to expedite motorist travel across the border. A number of border crossings now have a special Ready Lane for motorists who have a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) enabled card such as the BCC. The border crossing stations are able to scan the card from 10 to 15 feet away. Motorists and their passengers simply need to hold their BCCs up to the windshield while driving through the crossing.

BCC holders will continue to need to travel with a valid passport if traveling by air, by sea or through a U.S. - Canada land entry to the United States. If traveling beyond 25 miles of the U.S. - Mexico border or intending to remain in the United States longer than 30 days, BCC holders will also continue to need a valid passport.

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